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The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010

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INSIDE SPORTS



Regional Preview

Gamecocks favored to make it to the Super-Regionals even though they have fallen short four out of five of their last games.

See page 7

MIX



Dez Cordas Jazz Duo

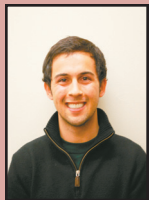
USC professor Craig Butterfield kicks off the summer performing with longtime friend at The Blue Martini as well as at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

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VIEWPOINTS

"Draw Muhammad Day"

Secularist movement needs to re-evaluate approach in order to effectively end special treatment of certain groups.



Frank Avery
Fourth-year political science and religious studies student

See page 4

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE SPORTS



Taylor Swift Concert

See country star Taylor Swift's Columbia concert from the front row through the lens of photographer Colin Campbell by checking out the photo slideshow.

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Editor in Chief (803) 777-3914
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MAYMESTER ABROAD INSPIRES TEAMWORK

*Students travel
to Munich, Berlin
for multimedia course*

Brittany Scott
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

At the close of the Spring 2010 semester, some Gamecock students were anticipating a summer vacation free from classes while others were eager to hit the books again. Two professors along with 15 students took off to Munich and Berlin, Germany for a multimedia Maymester course, which began May 9 and ended May 28.

Professor Scott Farrand, the trip coordinator, along with Professor Denise McGill, lead the students to get hands-on experience in the world of multimedia while experiencing an entirely different culture.

"Going into an environment that they do not understand and gaining acclimating experience becomes a very cultural shock," Farrand said.

The students, ranging from first-year undergrads to graduate level journalism students, hit the streets on their own and navigated their way through Germany while enhancing their multimedia knowledge.

The students were divided

into four teams. Each team was comprised of students, with varying majors in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, who chose topics and were responsible for a multimedia project at the end of the course. They shared their course-relevant knowledge and skills about writing, photography, shooting and editing videos, recording podcasts, blogging to present the information they gathered in various, interesting ways.

"The objective of the course was to give all students a blitz in multimedia in another country and to work as a team," McGill said.

In Germany, the group held daily morning meetings and then parted ways until scheduled activities and events. The professors were there to assist students, but wanted to allow the them the chance to roam and learn new skills independently. Students were responsible for setting up their own interviews and even locating internet access, which was considerably more sparse compared to American cities that are blanketed in WiFi networks. The professors and students made time for sightseeing and fun activities to keep them on their toes, too. The group took the opportunity to tour the BMW headquarters in Munich, visit the German Alps and, there was plenty of

time for shopping.

Second-year broadcast student Brooke Jordan took the course to gain more experience in her major.

"I never worked with video before and wanted to work with other students, but it was definitely going outside of my comfort zone," Jordan said. "I would, however, take another Maymester course because it's fun to travel and an easy way to gain course credit in only three weeks."

For some, like Jordan, traveling outside of the country was a whole new experience, but for students like Anna Hodgson, a third-year visual communications student, who has been to foreign countries in the past, traveling around Germany was just another great experience. Hodgson's team presented their multimedia project on Street Performing in Germany.

"The overall experience was great and we got to use our talents together to teach each other," Hodgson said.

Students were responsible for their own expenses, such as flights, lodging, food and extra funds. On average, the course cost approximately \$4,500, but for Jordan and Hodgson it was well worth it. "Thanks, Mom and Dad," Hodgson said.

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu



Fourth-year Adrienne Cunningham films during the multimedia Maymester trip to Munich, Germany.



Courtesy of HAYLEY MORTON

Hayley Morton and Cunningham pictured in Germany.

Student wins SC Big Brother



**Volunteer recognized
as mentor of the year
for work with youth**

Kristyn Winch
NEWS EDITOR

A USC undergraduate has been named "Big Brother of the Year" for the state of South Carolina.

Petty Officer Second Class Angelo Moore, 31, is a political science student at USC stationed at McGrady National Guard Station. Moore is a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia and has been a Big Brother to his Little Brother Elijah Burroughs for almost three years.

In a recent press release, Moore said that he and

his Little Brother have developed a strong bond during their time together.

"There was no way to know when I first met Eli that we would soon become inseparable," Moore said. "We established a bond so strong that at times I felt it was I who was getting the most out of our friendship."

Elijah Burroughs, is the son of Ericka Burroughs, who works at the Prevention Research Center at the Arnold School of Public Health.

"I never thought someone would give of themselves as Angelo has," Ericka Burroughs said. "I will never be able to express the depth of my appreciation for Angelo. He came into my son's life at a pivotal time when Eli was extremely vulnerable to peer pressure. But Angelo's unwavering commitment

has steered Eli in the right direction. For this, I will forever be grateful to Angelo Moore and BBBS of Greater Columbia."

As the state winner for South Carolina, Moore is now competing with candidates from across the United States for the honor of "National Big of the Year."

Case Manager Sabrina Miller has noticed similarities in the way Moore cares about his country and the way he looks after his Little Brother.

"I have noticed the same pride and dedication Angelo gives to serving our country is the same pride and dedication he applies to his relationship with his Little Brother Eli," Miller said. "Witnessing the life-changing events that have taken place in the life of

a child because of a Big Brother is riveting. Not only does it change them, it also changes you because it becomes very clear how little moments can have such big impacts."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia is a non-profit agency that "matches caring adult volunteers with youth for one-to-one mentoring relationships that have been proven to help children reach their maximum potential."

To learn more, volunteer or donate to the agency, call 803-691-5700 or visit their website: www.bbbsgc.org.

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Library Renovations Enter New Phase

Students should expect to experience some noise disturbance while visiting and studying at the Thomas Cooper Library this summer.

Renovations to the exterior of Thomas Cooper Library began a new phase after final exams ended in May. This new phase requires workmen to use jackhammers to remove the brick patio, which was beginning to show signs of wear, that surrounds the library so that it can be replaced. Noise and vibrations inside the library are expected to be intense at this time, and the renovations will last

through the summer.

Other renovations on the exterior of the building are also underway. These consist of repairing and securing the marble facade of the building. Library users may want to consider working on the lower floors of the library because they will be less affected by the noise.

During the next few weeks, renovations will take place inside the library as well. Carpet is being replaced in several areas of the library, which will require moving some

of the shelving. Some tile in the restrooms will be replaced, also.

Earplugs are available at library service desks for those who would like to use them.

"We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we work to improve the building," said Communications Librarian Rebecca Gettys.

— Information compiled by Kristyn Winch, News Editor



Scott Fowler / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Members of USC community awarded grant

Seven gamecocks among 1,521 Fulbright scholars to study abroad

Kristyn Winch
NEWS EDITOR

The Fulbright Program recently gained several new scholars from the University of South Carolina, including two 2010 graduating seniors, two graduate students, and three alumni. The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States government. According to a recent press release and as mentioned in its mission statement, the program is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Students who receive grants through the Fulbright program have

the opportunity to study, teach and/or conduct research, “exchange ideas” and “contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns” in over 155 countries. Since the Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs was established at USC in 1994, many students have applied and received awards. These recent recipients bring the total number of USC Fulbright recipients to 53. From the 6,600 applications that were received by Fulbright in 2008-2009, 1,521 scholarships were awarded. During the past academic year, students from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica,

Germany, Madagascar, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Turkey and several other countries studied at USC in conjunction with the Fulbright Program. This year’s USC Fulbright recipients are 2010 bachelor’s degree graduate Nessa Kerr, 2010 bachelor’s degree graduate Jessica Steele, 2010 master’s degree graduate Hannah Nicol, current doctoral candidate Michelle Williams, alumni Callie Van Koughnett, alumni Chase Stoudenmire, and alumni Jeremy Gahm.

Comments on this story?
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PIC OF THE WEEK



Scott Fowler / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Drivers compete in the Formula D Pro Drift race in Braselton, Ga. at the Road Atlanta track in early May.

LOCAL & WORLD NEWS

LOCAL 90-year-old charged with murder

COLUMBIA — A 90-year-old South Carolina man was charged with murder after authorities say he killed his wife with a hatchet following an argument, authorities said Tuesday. After receiving a call about a domestic disturbance, deputies arrested William David Martin around 7:30 a.m. at his home in Moore, 85 miles northwest of Columbia, according to Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright. Inside the home, deputies found 85-year-old Jeanette C. Martin lying on the floor of her bedroom. William Martin was sitting in the living room with his grandson, who had called 911. Jeffrey Bulman, 46, had stopped by to check on his grandparents and took the hatchet from his grandfather before authorities arrived, deputies said. Jeanette Martin was taken to a local hospital, where she was later pronounced dead. William Martin was checked out at a hospital before he was booked into the Spartanburg County jail on a murder charge, authorities said. Bond had not been set for Martin as of Tuesday afternoon, and it was not immediately clear if he had an attorney. Brenda Hooker, a neighbor who lives down the street from the Martins’ home, told WSPA-TV she was alarmed to hear what authorities say happened at the home. “I just am shocked,” Hooker told the television station. “It would be as if my parents were in that position.” During a news conference late Tuesday morning, Wright gave few details about a possible motive for the killing. “The only thing I can say is, you probably need to pray for this family,” Wright said. “It’s very traumatic, what they’re going through right now.” An autopsy for Jeanette Martin was scheduled later Tuesday. There was no answer at a telephone number listed for the couple’s home.



NATIONAL Pedestrian sues Google Maps

SALT LAKE CITY — A pedestrian injured by a motorist while following an online route has filed a lawsuit claiming Google Inc. supplied unsafe directions. Lauren Rosenberg filed a lawsuit on Thursday seeking more than \$100,000 in U.S. District Court in Utah. It also named a motorist she says hit her. Rosenberg used her phone in January to download directions from one end of Park City to the other. Google Maps led her to a four-lane boulevard without sidewalks that was “not reasonably safe for pedestrians,” according to the lawsuit filed by the Northridge, Calif., resident. The case has become a sensation on tech blogs, websites and cable television channels, with critics assailing the woman for ignoring her own safety to blindly follow online directions. Her lawyer, Allen Young, said the truth was different. Rosenberg believed she could reach a sidewalk on the other side of Deer Valley Drive and tried to cross the boulevard, but didn’t even make it to the median, he said. She was struck by a speeding car on a pitch-black night and received multiple bone fractures that required six weeks of rehabilitation, Young added. “We think there’s enough fault to go around, but Google had some responsibility to direct people correctly or warn them,” Young said. “They created a trap with walking instructions that people rely on. She relied on it and thought she should cross the street.” Rosenberg is seeking compensation for medical bills, plus more for lost wages and punitive damages. The lawsuit provided no other information about the woman, who has been misidentified online as a Los Angeles publicist by the same name. Young said the woman is a native of Northridge in her mid-20s and is unemployed. No phone listing could be found for her. Google spokeswoman Elaine Filadelfo said the company had not received a copy of the lawsuit and couldn’t discuss it, but she disputed Young’s assertion that Google Maps provides no warning that walking routes may be missing sidewalks or pedestrian paths. Every software version for desktop computers and mobile devices has had that disclaimer since Google Maps was launched in 2008, she said. Park City police said some segments of Deer Valley Drive have sidewalks but not the stretch that Rosenberg reached. The boulevard has a walking path on the side Rosenberg failed to reach, police Capt. Rick Ryan said.

INTERNATIONAL Agatha deaths rise to 179

GUATEMALA CITY — Villagers used hoes and pick axes to hunt for victims of landslides that have killed at least 179 people in Central America while officials in Guatemala’s capital tried to cope with a vast sinkhole that swallowed a clothing factory. Thousands remained homeless and dozens still missing following the season’s first tropical storm. Rescue crews struggled to reach isolated communities to distribute food and water. “This is a total tragedy,” said Jose Vicente Samayoa, president of a neighborhood group in Amatitlan, a flooded town south of Guatemala’s capital. Officials in Guatemala reported 152 dead but said 100 people were still missing. In the department of Chimaltenango — a province west of Guatemala City — landslides buried rural Indian communities and killed at least 60 people. Curious onlookers also gathered at a massive and almost perfectly circular sinkhole that swallowed an entire intersection in Guatemala City over the weekend, gulping down a clothing factory but causing no deaths or injuries. Authorities estimate the hole is 66 feet wide and nearly 100 feet deep, but they are still investigating what caused it. Nearly 125,000 people were evacuated in Guatemala and thousands more fled their homes in neighboring Honduras, where the death toll rose to 17 after two youths disappeared while bathing in a turbulent river despite official warnings to stay away from swollen waterways. Most schools also resumed classes on Tuesday in Honduras.



Luis Romero / The Associated Press

People prepare aid packages to be distributed to communities affected by tropical storm Agatha in San Salvador May 31.

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USC English professor named Guggenheim Fellowship winner

Recipient to use award to author Thoreau biography

Kristyn Winch
NEWS EDITOR

English professor Laura Dassow Walls plans to achieve a personal goal by writing a book about author Henry David Thoreau as a result of winning the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship this April.

Chosen from a field of 3,000 applicants, Walls is among 180 artists, scholars and scientists from the United States and Canada who have been named 2010 Fellows by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Winners are considered innovators and leaders in their respective fields.

The Guggenheim Fellowship was established in 1925 by former U.S. Senator Simon Guggenheim and his wife, Olga, in memory of their oldest son.

"The Guggenheim is the highest award in general academic fields," Walls said in a recent press release. "I'm tremendously honored to be awarded this fellowship."

Walls joined the USC faculty in 2004 with hopes to further develop studies of transcendentalist author Thoreau and "deepen the understanding of American Romanticism."

Walls plans to spend her Guggenheim Fellowship year working to write a biography of Thoreau that "introduces him to a new generation and connects him to the 21st century."

She will work with the Thomas Cooper Library's collections of 19th century American literature, especially the Joel Myerson collection in the new Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library.



Courtesy www.sc.edu

Professor Laura Dassow Walls has taught at USC for six years.

Walls will also visit Thoreau collections in other areas in the United States, including Charlottesville, Virginia, Washington, D.C., at the New York and Concord Public Libraries, at Harvard University and in other areas near Boston.

"We really live in a different era now, and we bring different questions to Thoreau and see him in new ways," Walls said. "He continues to be so important, an icon of American culture and a kind of ambassador of American culture abroad."

Walls has had an interest in Thoreau since she was in high school, and she finds it "remarkable" that a full-length biography of Thoreau has not been written since the early 1960s.

By writing her book, Walls plans to reintroduce Thoreau to a 21st century audience, clear up popular myths about the author, and draw parallels between his ideas about nature and self-discovery and modern concepts of sustainability, responsibility, and civic engagement.

One myth about Thoreau is that he was a hermit who disappeared into the wilderness to write his book "Walden." According to Walls, Walden Pond was a mile and a half from Thoreau's home and

Thoreau returned to a busy and active life as a surveyor and civil engineer after spending a few years writing and meditating.

"This notion that Thoreau was a hermit doesn't connect with the actual reality of his life," Walls said. "That makes him more accessible to us today. He was trying to find a way to live a full, engaged life and to do so in connection and contact with nature. He seems to have succeeded, which is worth exploring."

Walls taught at Lafayette College for 12 years before coming to USC. She is the author of three books that are about Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Alexander von Humboldt.

Her 2009 book on von Humboldt, titled "The Passage to Cosmos: Alexander von Humboldt and the Shaping of America," earned Walls a Merle Curti Award from the Organization of American Historians.

In early May, Walls received a Russell Research Award for the Humanities and Social Sciences from USC. The Russell Award is the university's most prestigious prize for faculty research.

Comments on this story?
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New technology promotes fitness

Skimble application monitors users' physical activity

Kristyn Winch
NEWS EDITOR

While most people would argue that sitting behind a computer screen has nothing to do with improving fitness, two recent college graduates are using technology to promote healthy lifestyles.

Skimble is a new tool designed to promote an active life. The tool can be accessed as an iPod or iPhone application or through social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook. Skimble was developed to accomplish tasks such as planning, tracking and discovering physical activities nearby and far away. The tool can also be used to connect with other active people and to share achievements with friends.

The web-based application provides an opportunity to compete on leader boards and win prizes "just for being active." Along with automatically tracking users' personal bests, Skimble will help monitor progress over time.

Currently, Skimble is compatible with over 40 different sports activities, including running, hiking, biking, rock climbing, skiing, canoeing, weight lifting and yoga. The program's website features a detailed breakdown of what can be tracked for each activity. Team sports such as basketball, soccer, football, hockey, and ultimate frisbee can be tracked on the application and website, too.

Maria Ly and Gabe Vanrenan founded Skimble. Ly holds a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from the University of Waterloo, Canada. She was a gymnast on the Canadian

all-stars power cheer team and also enjoys yoga and mountain climbing competitions. Vanrenan holds a bachelor of arts degree in computer science from Dartmouth College. He is an avid rock climber, and once climbed 2,400 feet in one day. Skimble users earn activity points when they track activities or plan trips or group sports. Users earn one point for creating trips and various points for tracking activities.

Since both creators are active and avid mountain and rock climbers, many of Skimble's features are geared toward climbers. According to the product's website, "Skimble does not mandate sport participation to anybody. You, and you alone, are responsible for your choice and safety."

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu

Summer adventures with Outdoor Recreation

Join Outdoor Recreation for slacklining, tubing, climbing wall orientation and mountain bike riding through August 12th.

All excursions are free to USC-Columbia students, as well as faculty and staff, who must make reservations with Outdoor Recreation by calling 803-576-9397 or in person at the Outdoor Recreation Office, STWFC 120, prior to the excursion.

Slacklining — Mondays at 4 p.m. in the Triangular Plaza (behind Blatt PE Center)

Tubing — Tuesdays at 1 p.m. on the Broad River, Riverfront Park (off of Huger Street at 312 Laurel Street)

Climbing Wall Orientation — Wednesdays at 5 p.m. at the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center (STWFC) Climbing Wall

Mountain Biking — Thursdays at 4 p.m. at Harbison State Forest (located at 5600 Broad River Road). Carpooling or rides from STWFC may be available, but call in advance to schedule

Afternoon of Tubing on the Saluda River — May 28, June 25 and July 30 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Climbing Wall is open Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., The Bike Shop and Office is also open Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. until August 12th and is located in the Outdoor Recreation Office in STWFC 120

—Information provided by Katie Coley

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SC must see past mud in gubernatorial race

With the primaries looming next Tuesday, June 8, tension continues to rise between the gubernatorial candidates. In the absence of good ol' Sanford to light a media fire to roast himself on, the personal lives of the current candidates are surfacing.

State Representative Nikki Haley has been charged by one of her supporters, blogger Will Folks, of having a sexual relationship with him in 2007 when he worked for her campaign as a political consultant.

“Playing dirty by revealing candidates’ personal lives seems to be the new trend in South Carolina.”

Representative J. Gresham Barrett, for revealing the alleged personal information, it seems he might have been more interested in getting his name, and blog, in print. Or did he actually think it was his civic duty to release this potentially damning information?

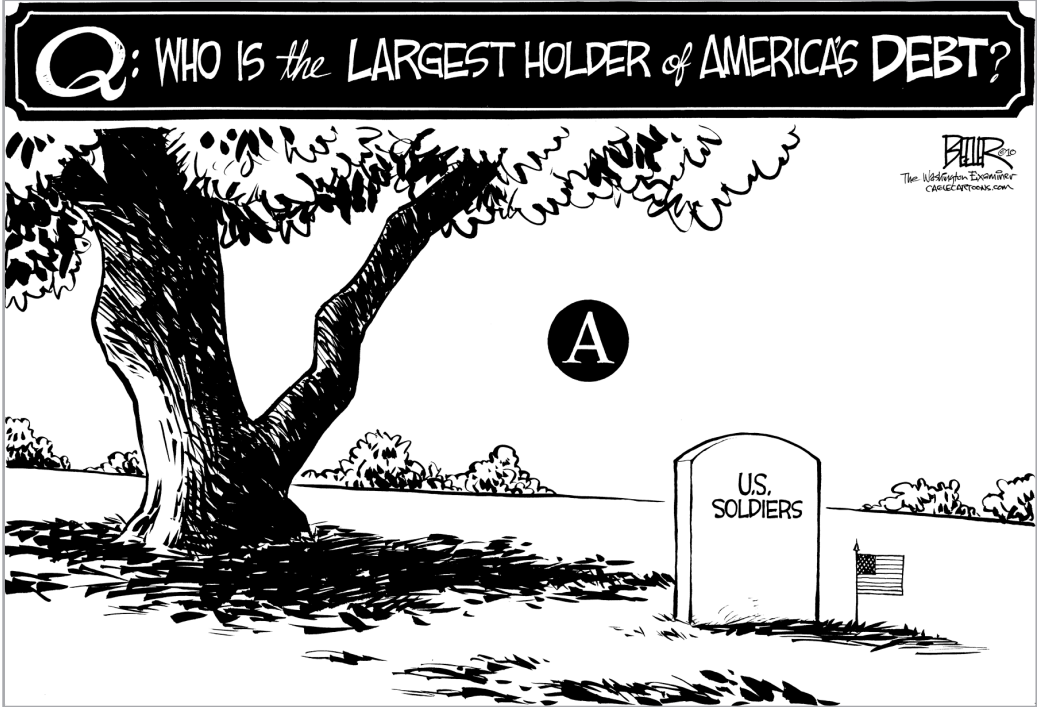
We think not. Haley is not Mark Sanford. She isn’t financing exotic trysts with tax dollars or abandoning her post and lying about her whereabouts. The potential affair is something that happened in her past and only relates to the integrity of her marriage, not her current political platform.

Trying to play dirty by revealing candidates’ personal lives in politics seems to be a trend in South Carolina. Haley was not surprised by the allegation and she replied that the whole situation was “disgraceful.” Hopefully Folks will think about what he will accomplish by speaking out before he opens his mouth again.

But don’t let the mudslinging keep you from the polls. If you are a South Carolina resident, vote in the primaries and don’t let the candidates’ personal lives get in the way. Pick the candidate you think will best serve South Carolina. Don’t automatically cross off the ones who have some skeletons in their closet that do not pertain to their duties as a potential governor.

Before he revealed the scandal, Folks cheered Haley on throughout her campaign on his blog FitNews. Now he claims that political enemies were searching for something negative and that he was “forced” to acknowledge the relationship he had with Haley.

Though he blames Haley’s political enemies, especially her Republican opponent



Blame game cannot stop oil spill

Evaluation of resource-dependency done on individual level best response to crisis in Gulf

Laura Mueller
FOURTH-YEAR PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT

Since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, resulting in the worst oil spill in United States’ history, 210,000 barrels a day have spilled into the gulf.

The fragile ecosystems of the United States’ Gulf Coast are in jeopardy and some effects are already visible. In a situation that feels hopeless, how have the citizens of this country chosen to respond?

Well in the weeks following the explosion the response of many in society has been, at best, passive. News programs, blogs and forums thrive in the people’s response to join them in playing the blame game.

Fingers are pointed in every direction, from those in our government responsible for regulating the oil industry, to Halliburton who was carrying out a cement job at the time the rig exploded.

Even though it is important to place responsibility for this disaster, after all someone will need to shell out the billions upon billions of dollars to help heal this economic wound, we should individually examine our own role in

this disaster, even though it may be miniscule.

The rig explosion has provided us with an unfortunate glimpse at how our heavy dependency on oil can negatively and directly impact us. At best, it has given people an opportunity to evaluate their day-to-day consumption of such precious resources.

Of course, the average citizen didn’t directly cause the oil spill, but that doesn’t mean there is no reason to change habits and be more conservative about the issue.

Instead of focusing on who’s to blame for this disaster, it would be best to take an active approach by asking yourself what you can do to change your dependency on natural resources.

Although the effects of lessening one’s consumption of limited resources may not be tangible or immediate, it is a greater service to our environment than joining those who blame others and scream at the television.

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Viewpoints

THIS SUMMER?

CONTACT MARILYNN JOYNER AT
JOYNERME@EMAIL.SC.EDU.

‘Draw Muhammad Day’ sustains special treatment

Posters displaying controversial images misunderstood, fail to garner support for cause

This past May, the Secular Student Alliance and Pastafarians at USC promoted and endorsed an event called “Draw Muhammad Day.” Participants were asked to draw a depiction of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad, recipient of the revelation of God according to Islamic tradition, and post these pictures online or, as the Pastafarians encouraged, throughout campus buildings. The point was initially to mock the censorship of some cartoonists such as Trey Parker and Matt Stone of Comedy Central’s South Park and make a stance against what some secularists believe was the special treatment of the Prophet and Islam. Many Muslims consider any depiction of Muhammad to be forbidden by religious texts for all, believer or not, and a grave disrespect, though not all Muslims believe it to be offensive.

South Park’s creators and other cartoonists have had a long history in regards to their attempts to mock the figure including in 2006 Parker and Stone voluntarily added a black censorship box over the Prophet, in part to comply with Viacom’s requests and in part to mock it. The SSA has used this and

similar incidents to make a stance against what they believe has been the special treatment of the Prophet and Islam in censorship practices.

Perhaps they had a valid point. Why should Islam receive special treatment? The same show often mocks Jesus and God — as seen in the Christmas special where Jesus and Santa Claus engage in guerilla-style warfare to win back Christmas from the other. The fundamental flaw, however, lies in the assumption that somehow Islam has actually received special treatment. To assume this is to be ignorant of the reality of the situation, particularly by secularist organizations that responded to what they perceived was a poor decision on censorship with hate speech rather than the discursive, rational arguments they are so well known for.

Regardless of any stance on whether or not Islam is valid as a religion or belief system, the development and execution of a campaign to directly antagonize a characteristic of one’s faith, a defining feature of some societies or of an individual, is by virtue an act of hostility and, by extension, an act of hate. As the Attorney General’s Commission on Racial, Ethnic, Religious and Minority Violence stated



Frank Avery
Fourth-year political science student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author’s name, year in school and area

of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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About The Daily Gamecock

CONTACT INFORMATION

Offices located on the third floor of the Russell House
Editor: gamecockeditor@sc.edu
News: sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu
Viewpoints: sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu
The Mix: sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu
Sports: sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu
Online: www.dailygamecock.com
Newsroom: 777-7726
Sports: 777-7182
Editor’s Office: 777-3914
Fax: 777-6482

Mass transit no easy task in America

Greyhound’s demise explained by inconvenience

Part of Obama’s 2008 platform was a call for an expansive passenger rail system sporting bullet trains. Many shrugged off the proposal saying they already had cars. True, but what happens when your car breaks down in West Virginia?

That’s what three friends and I had to endure on our trip to Toronto weeks back. We were stuck in W.Va. with no friends and family to help out, and our transmission was shot. We had to leave it at an AAMCO. Most car rental places require renters to be at least 25. Too bad we were all 20.

So where do you turn when you have no other options? Greyhound. We found ourselves waiting at the Greyhound “station” in Bluefield, W.Va.

The “station” was located in a condemned parking lot that, I kid you not, had a radioactive sticker on it. There were bullet holes in the glass. Needless to say, we were exhilarated when the bus finally picked us up. Our mood deteriorated when the bus broke down two hours later near Charleston, W.Va. Ironically, we had just left a Charleston, one that had palm trees instead of coal stacks. I had to listen to a woman yell at her husband for being too drunk to pick her up while our driver inexplicably walked off into the night. By the time the backup bus came, I could tell this was going to be a great trip.

In Ohio, I helped the fellow next to me find the bag of weed he had dropped. In Michigan, a young lady offered everyone on the bus “Iron Man 2” and Mayweather vs. Mosley DVDs for \$2. When a man in the back inquired if she had any weed, she replied “I don’t sell anything illegal.”

At the Detroit-Windsor crossing on the way back into the States, Greyhound did not allow us ample time to go through customs. When we saw that the last passenger was of Arab descent, we knew we were going to miss our connection. Between these depressing situations, we were confronted with moronic, rude employees and less than stellar bus conditions. And what did this trip cost me? Over \$200 to Toronto and back to the car in W.Va. No wonder the inefficient and expensive Greyhound has gone bankrupt twice in the last 20 years.

Moral of this story? Check your transmission for holes and urge Congress to support high-speed rail.

The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. E-mail sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.

Unique duo to play S.C. arts festival

USC double bass professor performs in Piccolo Spoleto

Ellen Meder
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After exams end many students forget that professors exist, nevermind that they lead interesting lives beyond the academic year. Unbeknownst to many, one USC professor is starting his summer by performing at The Blue Martini, one of Columbia's hottest jazz bars, as well as Piccolo Spoleto, South Carolina's largest cultural festival of the year.

Craig Butterfield, a professor of double bass and jazz studies in the USC School of Music, will be taking the stage by storm June 4 and 5 with guitarist Matthew Slotkin, performing as the jazz/folk duo Dez Cordas.

The group officially formed in 2005 and has performed over 60 shows together since. Butterfield and Slotkin played music together through their middle and high school years, starting with a jam band and eventually evolving to classical and jazz music. The two separated for college and had no contact for 10 years until Slotkin played a show at the University of North Texas, where Butterfield was finishing his doctorate. Butterfield had just been offered a teaching position at USC and, as he soon found out, Slotkin was the director of guitar studies at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania. Finally being on the same coast afforded them a unique musical opportunity.

“While the combination of guitar and bass is the backbone of pretty much every rock and pop group, strangely the classical genre has pretty much ignored this duo,” Butterfield said. “Therefore there is hardly any music written for guitar and double bass. This is both a problem and an opportunity.”

Butterfield noted that while it can be difficult

obtaining music for the pairing to play, it does allow Dez Cordas a freedom that comes from not having an expected or standard repertoire, but that its style is “centered around the border” between classical and folk traditions.

In February the duo released their first joint album, “Dances, Songs, Inventions” on Centaur Records. It was this album that Dez Cordas submitted to the judges of Piccolo Spoleto, which earned them a coveted spot on the festival's extensive list of performances. The pair will be performing at City Gallery at Waterfront Park in Charleston on Saturday.

Piccolo Spoleto is an annual arts festival put on by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs to highlight local and Southeastern artistic talent. The festival runs concurrently and as a complement to international, world-class Spoleto USA Festival, which Charleston hosts every summer.

Butterfield said that for the occasion Dez Cordas will be performing Manuel da Falla's Seven Spanish folk Songs, Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen, two original pieces written for Dez Cordas by John Orfe and Dick Goodwin and selections from Mountain Songs by Robert Beaser, which were originally written for guitar and flute.

“At first glance it might seem unusual to perform flute music on the double bass, but actually it can work quite well, although of course it does not sound like the composer originally intended,” Butterfield said. “The various Mountain Songs movements are all based on Appalachian folk melodies, and fit really well with our group aesthetic.”

But before the two sojourn to Charleston they will perform with a jazz inclination in the Capitol city at Blue Martini on Lady St. in The Vista Friday, June 4 at 8 p.m.

“I look at performing as the ultimate game or contest for a musician — sort of a way to check



Courtesy of Carrie Phillips

Matthew Slotkin, left, and USC professor Craig Butterfield perform together as Dez

in with how your training and preparation techniques are working,” Butterfield said.

He also admitted that the real drive is to make a genuine connection with the audience. “Somehow you can pick up on the general emotion of the crowd right away. I'd rather play for five people that are really enjoying the music than 500 people that are there solely to fulfill a course requirement,” Butterfield said.

Other than the fact that Butterfield has love performing music since he was 4 years old, he said that the experience of personally taking the stage is integral to teaching.

“If my students are going to get out there and perform and become successful musicians I believe it's important for me to be out there doing the same,” Butterfield said. “The double bass is not often thought of as a solo instrument or as a leading voice in a small chamber ensemble, so I feel a certain obligation to demonstrate that it can do these things, and do so quite successfully.”

For additional information on the performances call Blue Martini at (803) 256-2442 or visit www.piccolospoleto.com.

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu

Film fails to utilize solid talent

MacGruber
NOW IN THEATERS

★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆
Director: Jorma Taccone
Starring: Will Forte, Kristen Wiig, Ryan Phillippe, Val Kilmer
Run Time: 97 minutes
Rating: R for crude and sexual content, violence, language and nudity.



Greg Peters / The Associated Press

“MacGruber,” the newest addition to the genre of action-comedy hybrids, plays up the idea that audiences accept action films as already ridiculously outlandish.

Jimmy Gilmore
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The recent cycle of action-comedy hybrids, of which “Hot Fuzz” and “Pineapple Express” may be the most unhinged and successful, all seem to rest on one simple truth: viewers understand action films are already ridiculous to the point of being unintentional comedies.

They play up the conventions established by mega-blockbuster action producers like Jerry Bruckheimer, upping the ante in explosions and violence to almost uncomfortable levels.

“MacGruber,” the most recent addition, makes an honest and somewhat trying effort of combining bizarre chemistry, freaky sexual humor and outlandish action set pieces into a warped cocktail of violent profanity. It also has the added challenge of being a 90-minute film adapted from a series of Saturday Night Live sketches that last about 90 seconds.

Leading man and co-writer Will Forte brings the necessary jolt and relentless deadpan to make just about all of the film's shtick work. With '80s-inspired hair, clothes and car stereo, he's a man who practically oozes masculinity — think Stallone by way of Will Ferrell.

Forte seemingly has free reign in almost any corner of the frame, shaping his wacky physicality, and purposefully wooden line delivery into a kind of science. However, the rest of the film feels inert, as if always a step behind where its star wants to take it.

Director Jorma Taccone, making his big-screen debut after directing several of segments on SNL, seems overwhelmed by the film's action segments. While “MacGruber” feels

solid when it lets the comedians do the work, its prat falls into hyperbolic action unable to continually up its own ante. That, and the film underplays two of its most valuable assets. Kristen Wiig's mousy, manic turn as Vicki St. Elmo fits in the kind of tone the film aspires to — she makes every line as awkward as possible, and in the process continues to emerge as a solid supporting funny-woman.

It's a shame that she ends up feeling too constrained next to Forte's wild performance. While she makes the most of every moment, her best laughs are too far between. When she's not in the spotlight, she's dearly missed.

One of the film's biggest tragedies is in Val Kilmer, who doesn't get nearly enough to do as the diabolical villain. For as skilled and funny as Kilmer is, the script seems confused about what to do with him, pushing him too close to conventional super-baddy, making him pale in comparison to the quirks of the rest of the cast.

As a feat of adaptation, “MacGruber” is actually kind of a marvel, given how much it's been fleshed out from a simple sketch. It piles on plenty of riffs on '80s testosterone vehicles, but it struggles to find its own voice.

And yet, its jokes ride a steady incline of raunch, always finding room to push set-ups into surprising punch lines. While “MacGruber” is certainly uneven, and as a comedy isn't nearly as outrageous or clever as it may think it is, it has a handful of laughs with enough charisma to sustain its modest runtime and routine narrative.

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu

SUMMER TREATS

*Refreshing homemade Popsicles
cool way to escape heat*

Katie Crocker
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

For those who are looking to beat the summer heat, Popsicles are a classic and festive way to go. With the help of a few simple recipes anyone can make a delicious treat without putting his or her wallet in deep-freeze.

The Classic Juice Pop

We've all seen them: the one flavor, no nonsense juice pop.

Ingredients:

- One bottle of your favorite fruity juice
- Dixie cups
- Popsicle sticks

Simply pour the juice into the Dixie cups until they're almost full. Place one Popsicle stick inside each cup, then place the cups safely in the freezer and let sit for at least two until the juice is completely frozen. Gently maneuver the cup off the treat while holding the stick right side up and enjoy.

For this recipe you can also place chunks of fruit like blueberries or strawberries inside cup before freezing for additional nutrients and visual appeal.

Georgia Paradise Popsicles

Who doesn't like cream and fruit on a stick? These creamsicles are sweeter than sugar and tastier than honey.

Ingredients

- 1 (6 oz) can peaches in light syrup or 2 fresh ripe peaches, sliced and pitted
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tsp sugar or honey (optional)

-Popsicle sticks and Dixie cups

Whip cream in a blender for 30-45 seconds. Next, add the peaches and honey and blend until smooth. Pour the concoction into the cups, insert sticks and freeze.

Adapted from [recipessource.com](http://www.recipessource.com)

Chunky Monkey Madness

Oh, bananas — healthy and loaded with potassium. Fruit can be fun, as long as it's smothered in chocolate and nuts!

Ingredients:

- Ripe bananas
- Popsicle sticks
- Chocolate sauce
- Nuts

First peel the bananas and set them on a sheet of tin foil. Next stick Popsicle sticks into one end of each banana. Place your jar of chocolate sauce in the microwave until it is warm, then pour the chocolate sauce over the bananas. For very even coating, hold the bananas upside down by the stick and rest the tops on a hard surface. Apply the chocolate sauce slowly and carefully. Next take a handful of nuts and spread on the tin foil in a large pile. Roll the chocolate-covered bananas in nuts (any type of coarsely chopped nut will work nicely). Place the bananas on a cookie sheet covered in fresh tin foil then stick the pan in the fridge for two to three hours.

Adapted from <http://www.easy-kids-recipes.com/popsicle-recipes.html>.



CHECK OUT PHOTOS
FROM TAYLOR SWIFT'S
COLUMBIA CONCERT IN
OUR ONLINE SLIDESHOW
AT DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

PERK-olations
By Jarad Greene / The Daily Gamecock



PhD • By Jorge Cham

GRADING METHODS

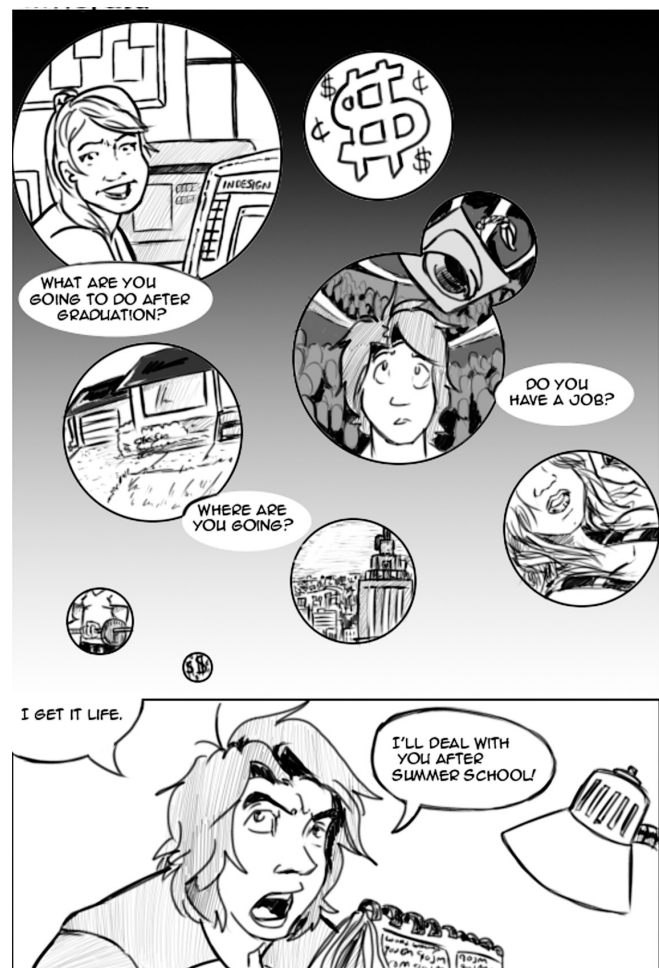
METHOD 1
GRADE ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME FOR ALL THE PAPERS.

METHOD 2
GRADE ALL THE PROBLEMS IN ONE PAPER BEFORE MOVING TO THE NEXT.

METHOD 3
START WITH METHOD 1, DESPAIR OVER HOW LONG IT TOOK TO GRADE THE FIRST PROBLEM, FORGET CONSISTENCY, SWITCH TO METHOD 2.

JORGE CHAM © 2010 WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Whiteboard
By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



THE SCENE @USC

Drinks, Dames, ...and Drawing!

Wednesday, June 2
DR. SKETCHY'S ANTI-ART SCHOOL
8 p.m., \$10
Gotham Bagel, 1508 Main St.

Thursday, June 3
VISTA AFTER FIVE, FEATURING FRESH AIR
5:30 p.m., free
Jillian's, 800 Gervais St.

Friday, June 4
IRISH ARTS WEEKEND
7 to 9 p.m., \$15
Columbia Museum of Art, 1515 Main St.

Saturday, June 5
ANBERLIN, TERRIBLE THINGS, VERSUS THE ROBOT
7 p.m., \$15 advance/ \$18 day of show
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

Sunday, June 6
WWE PRESENTS RAW WORLD TOUR
5 p.m., \$16-61
Colonial Life Arena, 801 Lincoln St.

Monday, June 7
SHANE ALEXANDER WITH BRENT SHUTTLEWORTH
8 p.m., \$10
White Mule, 1530 Main St.

Tuesday, June 8
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
5:30 & 8:15 p.m., \$7.50
The Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

HOROSCOPES



ARIES Some of your associates see themselves as free agents, which adds obstacles for you while working out the details.

TAURUS Spend gtime meditating today and create a dream journal. Reflect on your thoughts and consider information that could be applicable to your practical work.

GEMINI You notice what's going on in group activities. Lucky circumstances put you in the right place to receive information and take appropriate action.

CANCER The closer you stay to home, the more you accomplish. A vacation day may be in order. You'll see the wisdom of that decision later.

LEO Your mind reaches out to the cosmos for inspiration. Others remain glued to material concerns. Skillful compromise includes pointing out details they may have overlooked.

VIRGO Consider the details as you formulate a wild new plan. Nothing gets done without a concrete foundation of logic and practicality.

LIBRA You may feel trapped between one person's confusion and the excitement of another. Work moves forward when you have both look at practicalities.

SCORPIO It takes some effort to pull your creative ideas together. One possibility sticks out like a sore thumb and needs to be massaged.

SAGITTARIUS You know in your heart that everything will work out for the best. Rein in imagination. Use skill to make small changes. This gets it all moving.

CAPRICORN You may feel an intense desire to conduct your work without going public. This could be tricky, as a lot of people are involved.

AQUARIUS If you want to travel soon, make reservations today, or at least plan the itinerary. Allow flexibility (as long as it's not too expensive).

PISCES Gather your thoughts before beginning any work. Your goal is to make sure others understand what's needed.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

06/02/10

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Across

1 Buck in the forest
5 Mil. three-stripers
9 Big name in insurance
14 Wahine's dance
15 In ___ of: replacing
16 Sink outlet
17 Slightly
18 Slightly open
19 Fictional chocolatier
20 Rise from the ashes, so to speak
23 Employ
24 Laboriously earns, with "out"
25 Gets the lead out?
28 Two sizes above sm.
29 When the Kol Nidre is recited, vis-à-vis Yom Kippur
30 1970s radical gp.
31 "Pygmalion" on Broadway
36 Not this
37 Breath mint brand
38 Yalie
39 Pirate's spoils
40 Sticky stuff on a stick
41 Tourist who doesn't stay overnight
43 Prefix with center
44 "Blues Brother"
Aykroyd
45 Connections that help you get ahead
46 Think highly of
48 Clue weapon
50 "The Silence of the Lambs" org.
53 Born 5/31/1930, entertainer associated with the phrase formed by the starts of 20-, 31- and 41-Across
56 Easy ___
58 Golden rule word
59 Green Gables girl
60 Tea grade
61 Complaint
62 October 15th, e.g.
63 Prepares
60-Across
64 Low man on the feudal totem pole
65 Ultimate

Down

1 SeaWorld star
2 Oompah brass
3 More than similar

4 Garden portal
5 Goof-off
6 Military action doll
7 Sides in a game
8 Certain
9 Online pop-up source
10 Soap vamp ___ Kane
11 Discusses business
12 Zero
13 One or another
21 Protection
22 Quail group
26 Really delight
27 Lecherous woodland deity
28 Tardy
29 Blue-pencil
31 "Me and Bobby ___"
32 Pound sounds
33 "Nutty" individual
34 Taboo for Mrs. Sprat
35 Prince ___ Khan
36 Blouses and shirts
39 IQ test name
41 Rhett's last word
42 Swipes
44 Prepares for a winter takeoff, as plane wings
47 Jab with a bone
48 Actress Zellweger
49 Western movie
50 Henry, Peter or Jane
51 Forensic TV drama
52 That is, in Latin
54 Beat-up boats

Today's solution:

I	S	V	T	F	R	E	S	S	M	E	R	B
S	E	D	I	F	E	E	B	E	O	K	E	D
E	N	N	V	O	I	N	N	C	B	V	S	V
O	O	M	I	S	V	E	I	N	I	T	O	
I	B	F	E	D	O	R	W	E	E	L	S	E
			S	N	I		N	V	D	I	E	
H	E	D	I	B	L	A	V	D	E	N	T	O
A	L	O	O	B	I	T	E	S	L	B	E	C
L	V	H	L	A	D	V	T	H	I	V	A	W
V	T	S	E	A	E	E	G	T				
S	E	S	V	H	E	S	E	X	E	E	S	N
		X	C	V	B	E	W	O	C	V	E	X
A	T	T	I	M	B	E	T	E	I	B	V	
N	I	V	H	O	N	E	I	T	V	T	H	
V	N	I	E	V	S	I	G	S	G	V	I	S

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

06/02/10

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Today's solution

8	1	6	8	2	9	7	4	5
9	8	5	2	6	7	1	2	8
7	4	2	9	1	8	9	6	3
5	8	9	7	4	6	3	1	2
1	2	4	8	9	6	5	7	3
3	6	7	1	5	2	4	8	9
6	5	8	9	7	4	2	3	1
2	7	3	6	8	1	5	9	4
4	9	1	2	3	5	8	7	6

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Columbia Regional Preview

South Carolina seeks first Super Regional birth since 2007

Chris Bilko
Sports Editor

NO. 12 SOUTH CAROLINA (43-15) #1 SEED



The Gamecocks should be favored heavily to make it to the Super-Regionals, which will most likely be in Myrtle Beach versus the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers. USC has lost four out of their last five games, but a opening round game against Bucknell may be just what the doctor ordered to get Carolina out of their

hitting funk.

Best Hitter: Whit Merrifield- .329 Batting Average, 12 Home Runs, 36 RBI's

Best Pitcher: Blake Cooper- 10-1 Record, 2.94 ERA, 88 Strikeouts

NO. 18 VIRGINIA TECH (38-20) #2 SEED

The Hokies are very hot right now, coming just one run shot of the ACC championship in extra innings against NC State. VT proved they could compete with the big boys in the ACC when they went and took two out of three in Atlanta against No. 3 Georgia Tech. This is

the only team to possibly give Carolina any trouble on the way to the Super-Regionals.

Best Hitter: Austin Waters- .373 Batting Average, 8 Home Runs, 51 RBI's

Best Pitcher: Ben Rowen- 5-2 Record, 3.02 ERA, 53 Strikeouts



THE CITADEL (42-20) #3 SEED

Winner of the Southern Conference tournament last weekend, The Citadel Bulldogs are another hot team to be coming to Columbia for the regional. The Bulldogs currently have a 12 game winning streak, but South Carolina had no trouble with them in their previous two outings. USC won

both games against the Citadel this season 10-1 and 10-4 respectively.

Best Hitter: Bryan Altman- .329 Batting Average, 13 Home Runs, 66 RBI's

Best Pitcher: Asher Wojciechowski- 12-2 record, 3.25 ERA, 144 Strikeouts



BUCKNELL (25-33) #4 SEED

Despite their losing record, the Bison won the Patriot League tournament to gain entry into the CWS Regionals. They should pose no threat to South Carolina in the first game on Friday. They should just enjoy the trip and the warm weather associated with it.

Best Hitter: Doug Shribman- .364 Batting Average, 20 Home Runs, 60 RBI's

Best Pitcher: Dylan Seeley- 5-3 record, 4.03 ERA, 48 Strikeouts



Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Best, worst musical choices on the baseball team

Walkout music an outlet for player creativity

During any given game, many sounds fill Carolina Stadium. The only musical constants are the walk-out songs chosen by the players. These songs are one of the only glimpses of personality that we see from these players in a game that doesn't show it very well. These particular tunes can be heard multiple times a game so they have to be excellent choices. Some select creative songs, while others clearly give the decision no thought.

The Good

Michael Roth — “Call On Me” by Eric Prydz:



Chris Bilko
Fourth-Year
Print Journalism
Student

Every time I see a lefty warming up in the bullpen, I hope it is Roth so I can hear this masterpiece of techno. The song is simple, consisting of only ten words, but the beat is the hook. It instantly changes the ballpark into a Miami nightclub and makes you want to fist-pump like Vinnie from “Jersey Shore”.

Ethan Carter — “The Circle of Life” from “The Lion King”: This one brings me back straight to the summer of 1995 when I watched the VHS of “The Lion King” all day every day. Whenever Carter is warming up, I always pretend all the animals of the African savanna are coming into Carolina Stadium to see Rafiki hoist Simba into the air while they are standing atop the Bi-lo Berm (aka Pride Rock).

Scott Wingo — “Let’s Groove” by Earth, Wind and Fire: Sometimes you just have to kick it old school. I applaud Wingo for going off the normal tendencies with this choice. Whenever he comes up to bat, the stadium is just a happier place.

The Bad

Nick Ebert — “Thunderstruck” by AC/DC: Seriously, this was the best you could come up with? They already play this

song at every Carolina game ever to rile up the crowd. Branch out and express yourself. Maybe it will get you some more playing time. Suggestion: “Naturally” by Selena Gomez and the Scene.

Bobby Haney — Various: Bobby has been quite the DJ this season, having three songs in a rotation. Just pick one and stick with it. Suggestion: Just keep “Stanky Leg.” It has the comedy element of hearing kids ask their parents what a “stanky leg” is. It was also awesome when the Ole Miss centerfielder did the dance in the outfield.

John Taylor — “The Unforgiven III” by Metallica: The song just repeats the lyrics “Forgive me, forgive me not” a bunch of times. Metallica can be good sometimes, but not this song. It is just annoying, and I can’t wait for the umpire to stop warm-ups whenever Taylor pitches. There are other, better songs if you want to be dark and brooding. Suggestion: “In The Air Tonight” by Phil Collins (make sure to have the drum solo)

I’ve always wanted to be a pro baseball player just so I could choose multiple songs to walk out to before my at-bats. I have a constant rotation of songs if I was good enough to make it in the big leagues. This is the current set list.

“Africa” by Toto — My all-time favorite song and the only one in the rotation that will never change. It is perfect in every way and I have yet to hear someone who says that they dislike this aural masterpiece.

“Tik Tok” by Ke\$ha

— There has been a lot of hating on Ke\$ha lately, but the lyric “now the party don’t start til I walk in” is too good to pass up, especially since it is immediately followed by the chorus. I’m convinced the crowd would love it.

“Alejandro” by Lady

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

USC has solid month of May

Gamecocks fall one game short of SEC East title

Chris Bilko
SPORTS EDITOR

Even with spring classes coming to close, South Carolina’s baseball team has kept busy during the month of May.

The team ended the month with a 13-7 record, but fell just one game short of the SEC East crown at the end of the season, where they lost four out of their last five games.

Carolina started the month in exciting fashion. Senior catcher Brady Thomas hit a walk off home run in the bottom of the 11th inning to defeat Alabama 9-7. USC ended up taking the series with the Crimson Tide, but faltered to Kentucky in the next series. The Gamecocks couldn’t get the bats going in the last two games versus the Wildcats as they were outscored 11-4 in those defeats.

Before the next SEC series, the Arkansas Razorbacks held a 29-19 record against USC. Carolina put a dent in that record as they swept the Razorbacks in Fayetteville.

Pitching was key as the staff only gave up five runs to Arkansas the entire series. Sam Dyson was a dynamo on the mound in game two as he pitched a six-hit complete game shutout, earning him SEC pitcher of the week honors. This sweep made it so that the winner of the next series against Florida would decide the winner of the SEC East.

Unfortunately, USC could not get enough run support to win the first two game against the Gators. Carolina left 14 runners on base in those games and fell 3-2 and 5-2 respectively. The Gamecocks were able to get the bats going in the third game, trying to avoid the sweep. Led by a grand slam by second-year outfielder Jackie Bradley Jr., USC defeated the Gators 11-6.

“I played today’s game like it was for the title,” Coach Ray Tanner said. “We needed to win. This is college baseball, where every game is crucial, whether it is midweek games or a weekend in the SEC.”

Just four days after the finale against Florida, USC faced off against Ole Miss in the SEC tournament in Hoover, Ala. This is where they ran into the unstoppable force known as



Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Sophomore Jackie Bradley Jr. ended the regular season with a team-leading .372 batting average.

Drew Pomeranz. The Ole Miss southpaw held USC to seven scoreless innings as the Rebels came away with a 2-0 victory. The Carolina couldn’t awaken the next day either as they were eliminated from the tournament by Auburn in a 3-1 loss.

USC’s regular season play did not go unnoticed by critics. Senior

righty Blake Cooper was named to the All-SEC first-team, while Bradley and freshman closer Matt Price received All-SEC second-team awards. Bradley and second baseman Scott Wingo achieved All-SEC Defensive Team honors, while Price, Evan Marzilli and Christian Walker were named to the All-Freshman Team.

South Carolina will host an opening round regional in Columbia and will face Bucknell on Friday at 7 p.m. They are matched up in a Super-Regional matchup in Coastal Carolina’s region.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

